



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V/TDD) • Fax (808) 586-8129

INTERPRETIVE OPINION

Pursuant to §103-50, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), all buildings and facilities constructed by, or on behalf of the State or any county, shall conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) and amendments. In accordance to HRS §103-50 and Chapter 11-217, Hawaii Administrative Rules, the Disability and Communication Access Board has authority to issue interpretive opinions to HRS §103-50 design standards.

Docket: **DCAB 2003-03:** Are refrigerator controls for a side-by-side refrigerator/freezer required to be mounted at an accessible height?

Summary: Based on research conducted in coordination with an independent appliance supplier, there are apparently no compliant side-by-side refrigerator/freezer models currently with interior temperature controls within an accessible reach range. Currently, projects that specify side-by-side refrigerators/freezers will not receive a final document review, because the height of interior temperature controls do not comply with the RHAG.

The Board would like this interpretive opinion to offer manufacturers an incentive to manufacture a side-by-side refrigerator/freezer that fully complies with the RHAG. Therefore, this interpretive opinion is applicable until interior temperature controls for side-by-side refrigerator/freezers are manufactured within an accessible reach range.

Ruling: For buildings or facilities subject to HRS §103-50,

RHAG 13.3.6(3) Controls and RHAG 13.3.6(8) Refrigerators/Freezers

For side-by-side refrigerators/freezers that complies with applicable accessibility guidelines, interior temperature controls do not need to comply with accessible mounting height requirements, until side-by-side refrigerator/freezers are manufactured with interior temperature controls within an accessible reach range.

[Rul: 04/22] (Auth and Imp: HRS §103-50)

If you have any questions or comments regarding this ruling, please call us at 586-8121.

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